IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 37 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and add new Claims 38 to 79 as shown below. The claims, as currently pending in the application, read as follows:

1. to 37. (Canceled)

38. (New) A computer system comprising:

a host computer;

a peripheral device, capable of being freely connected to said host computer, adapted to enter into a low power consumption mode under a predetermined condition; and

a connection medium adapted to mutually connect said host computer and said peripheral device, and to bi-directionally transmit between said host computer and said peripheral device a connection signal representing a connection state of said host computer and said peripheral device,

wherein said peripheral device enters into the low power consumption mode after notifying a user of a predetermined message and obtaining approval of the user to enter into the low power consumption mode.

39. (New) A computer system according to Claim 38, wherein the predetermined condition is that a non-communication state continues for a predetermined period of time.

40. (New) A computer system comprising:

a host computer;

a peripheral device, capable of being freely connected to said host computer, adapted to enter into a low power consumption mode under a predetermined condition; and

a connection medium adapted to mutually connect said host computer and said peripheral device, and to bi-directionally transmit between said host computer and said peripheral device a connection signal representing a connection state of said host computer and said peripheral device,

wherein said peripheral device enters into the low power consumption mode after notifying said host computer of a predetermined message, informing a user of a content according to the predetermined message by said host computer, and obtaining approval of the user to enter the low power consumption mode.

41. (New) A computer system according to Claim 40, wherein the predetermined condition is that a non-communication state continues for a predetermined period of time.

42. (New) A computer peripheral device which is connected to a host computer, comprising:

a connection medium adapted to bi-directionally transmit between said host computer and said computer peripheral device a connection signal representing a connection state of said host computer and said computer peripheral device;

a non-communication state judgment unit adapted to monitor continuation of communication between said computer peripheral device and said host computer, and to judge whether or not a non-communication state satisfies a predetermined condition;

a non-connection transmission informing unit adapted to, in a case where it is judged by said non-communication state judgment unit that the non-communication state satisfies the predetermined condition, inform said host computer of the non-connection;

a non-connection approval obtaining unit adapted to obtain approval of a user with respect to a content informed by said non-connection transmission informing unit; and

a controller adapted to, after obtaining the approval by said non-connection approval obtaining unit, cause a connection signal transmitter to transmit a signal representing the non-connection to said host computer, and to enter an operation state of said computer peripheral device into a low consumption current mode.

43. (New) A computer peripheral according to Claim 42, wherein the predetermined condition is that the non-communication state continues for a predetermined period of time.

44. (New) A computer peripheral according to Claim 43, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing unit and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining unit are performed in said host computer.

45. (New) A computer peripheral according to Claim 43, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing unit and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining unit are performed in said computer peripheral device.

46. (New) A computer peripheral according to Claim 43, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing unit and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining unit are performed in either said host computer or said computer peripheral device.

47. (New) An imaging device which is connected to a host computer, comprising:

a connection medium adapted to bi-directionally transmit between said host computer and said imaging device a connection signal representing a connection state of said host computer and said imaging device;

a non-communication state judgment unit adapted to monitor continuation of communication between said imaging device and said host computer, and to judge whether or not a non-communication state satisfies a predetermined condition;

a non-connection transmission informing unit adapted to, in a case where it is judged by said non-communication state judgment unit that the non-communication state satisfies the predetermined condition, inform said host computer of the non-connection;

a non-connection approval obtaining unit adapted to obtain approval of a user with respect to a content informed by said non-connection transmission informing unit; and

a controller adapted to, after obtaining the approval by said non-connection approval obtaining unit, cause a connection signal transmitter to transmit a signal representing the non-connection to said host computer, and enter an operation state of said imaging device into a low consumption current mode.

48. (New) An imaging device according to Claim 47, wherein the predetermined condition is that the non-communication state continues for a predetermined period of time.

49. (New) An imaging device according to Claim 48, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing unit and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining unit are performed in said host computer.

50. (New) An imaging device according to Claim 48, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing unit and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining unit are performed in said imaging device.

51. (New) An imaging device according to Claim 48, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing unit and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining unit are performed in either said host computer or said imaging device.

52. (New) A method performed in a computer system comprising a host computer, a peripheral device, capable of being freely connected to said host computer, the peripheral device being adapted to enter into a low power consumption mode under a predetermined condition, and a connection medium adapted to mutually connect said host computer and said peripheral device, and to bi-directionally transmit between said host computer and said peripheral device a connection signal representing a connection state of said host computer and said peripheral device, the method comprising the steps of:

notifying a user of a predetermined message;

obtaining approval of the user to enter into a low power consumption mode; and

entering the peripheral device into the low power consumption mode after notifying the user of the predetermined message and obtaining approval of the user to enter into the low power consumption mode.

53. (New) A method according to Claim 52, wherein the predetermined condition is that a non-communication state continues for a predetermined period of time.

54. (New) A method performed in a computer system comprising a host computer, a peripheral device, capable of being freely connected to said host computer, the peripheral device being adapted to enter into a low power consumption mode under a predetermined condition, and a connection medium adapted to mutually connect said host computer and said peripheral device, and to bi-directionally transmit between said host computer and said peripheral device a connection signal representing a connection state of said host computer and said peripheral device, the method comprising the steps of:

notifying said host computer of a predetermined message;

informing a user of a content according to the predetermined message by the host computer;

obtaining approval of the user to enter into a low power consumption mode; and entering the peripheral device into the low power consumption mode after notifying said host computer of the predetermined message and obtaining approval of the user to enter the low power consumption mode.

55. (New) A method according to Claim 40, wherein the predetermined condition is that a non-communication state continues for a predetermined period of time.

56. (New) A method performed in a computer peripheral device which is connected to a host computer, comprising:

a connection step of bi-directionally transmitting, via a connection medium, between said host computer and said computer peripheral device a connection signal representing a connection state of said host computer and said computer peripheral device;

a non-communication state judging step of monitoring a continuation of communication between said computer peripheral device and said host computer, and judging whether or not a non-communication state satisfies a predetermined condition;

a non-connection transmission informing step of, in a case where it is judged by said non-communication state judging step that the non-communication state satisfies the predetermined condition, informing said host computer of the non-connection;

a non-connection approval obtaining step of obtaining approval of a user with respect to a content informed by said non-connection transmission informing step; and

a control step of, after obtaining the approval by said non-connection approval obtaining step, causing a connection signal transmitter to transmit a signal representing the non-connection to said host computer, and to enter an operation state of said computer peripheral device into a low consumption current mode.

57. (New) A method according to Claim 56, wherein the predetermined condition is that the non-communication state continues for a predetermined period of time.

58. (New) A method according to Claim 57, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing step and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining step are performed in said host computer.

59. (New) A method according to Claim 57, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing step and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining step are performed in said computer peripheral device.

60. (New) A method according to Claim 57, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing step and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining step are performed in either said host computer or said computer peripheral device.

61. (New) A method performed in an imaging device which is connected to a host computer, comprising:

a connection step of bi-directionally transmitting between said host computer and said imaging device a connection signal representing a connection state of said host computer and said imaging device;

a non-communication state judging step of monitoring continuation of communication between said imaging device and said host computer, and judging whether or not a non-communication state satisfies a predetermined condition;

a non-connection transmission informing step of, in a case where it is judged by said non-communication state judging step that the non-communication state satisfies the predetermined condition, informing said host computer of the non-connection;

a non-connection approval obtaining step of obtaining approval of a user with respect to a content informed by said non-connection transmission informing step; and

a control step of, after obtaining the approval by said non-connection approval obtaining step, causing a connection signal transmitter to transmit a signal representing the non-connection to said host computer, and enter an operation state of said imaging device into a low consumption current mode.

62. (New) A method according to Claim 61, wherein the predetermined condition is that the non-communication state continues for a predetermined period of time.

63. (New) A method according to Claim 62, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing step and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining step are performed in said host computer.

64. (New) A method according to Claim 62, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing step and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining step are performed in said imaging device.

65. (New) A method according to Claim 62, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing step and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining step are performed in either said host computer or said imaging device.

66. (New) A computer readable program stored on a computer readable medium, the program executing a method performed in a computer system comprising a host computer, a peripheral device, capable of being freely connected to said host computer, the peripheral device being adapted to enter into a low power consumption mode under a predetermined condition, and a connection medium adapted to mutually connect said host computer and said peripheral device, and to bi-directionally transmit between said host computer and said peripheral device a connection signal representing a connection state of said host computer and said peripheral device, the method comprising the steps of:

notifying a user of a predetermined message;

obtaining approval of the user to enter into a low power consumption mode; and

entering the peripheral device into the low power consumption mode after notifying the user of the predetermined message and obtaining approval of the user to enter into the low power consumption mode.

67. (New) A program according to Claim 66, wherein the predetermined condition is that a non-communication state continues for a predetermined period of time.

68. (New) A computer readable program stored on a computer readable medium, the program executing a method performed in a computer system comprising a host computer, a peripheral device, capable of being freely connected to said host computer, the peripheral device being adapted to enter into a low power consumption mode under a predetermined condition, and a connection medium adapted to mutually connect said host computer and said peripheral device, and to bi-directionally transmit between said host computer and said peripheral device a connection signal representing a connection state of said host computer and said peripheral device, the method comprising the steps of:

notifying said host computer of a predetermined message;

informing a user of a content according to the predetermined message by the host computer;

obtaining approval of the user to enter into a low power consumption mode; and

entering the peripheral device into the low power consumption mode after notifying said host computer of the predetermined message and obtaining approval of the user to enter the low power consumption mode.

69. (New) A program according to Claim 68, wherein the predetermined condition is that a non-communication state continues for a predetermined period of time.

70. (New) A computer readable program stored on a computer readable medium, the program executing a method performed in a computer peripheral device which is connected to a host computer, comprising:

a connection step of bi-directionally transmitting, via a connection medium, between said host computer and said computer peripheral device a connection signal representing a connection state of said host computer and said computer peripheral device;

a non-communication state judging step of monitoring a continuation of communication between said computer peripheral device and said host computer, and judging whether or not a non-communication state satisfies a predetermined condition;

a non-connection transmission informing step of, in a case where it is judged by said non-communication state judging step that the non-communication state satisfies the predetermined condition, informing said host computer of the non-connection;

a non-connection approval obtaining step of obtaining approval of a user with respect to a content informed by said non-connection transmission informing step; and

a control step of, after obtaining the approval by said non-connection approval obtaining step, causing a connection signal transmitter to transmit a signal representing the non-connection to said host computer, and to enter an operation state of said computer peripheral device into a low consumption current mode.

71. (New) A program according to Claim 70, wherein the predetermined condition is that the non-communication state continues for a predetermined period of time.

72. (New) A program according to Claim 71, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing step and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining step are performed in said host computer.

73. (New) A program according to Claim 71, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing step and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining step are performed in said computer peripheral device.

74. (New) A program according to Claim 71, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing step and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining step are performed in either said host computer or said computer peripheral device.

75. (New) A computer readable program stored on a computer readable medium, the program executing a method performed in an imaging device which is connected to a host computer, comprising:

a connection step of bi-directionally transmitting between said host computer and said imaging device a connection signal representing a connection state of said host computer and said imaging device;

a non-communication state judging step of monitoring continuation of communication between said imaging device and said host computer, and judging whether or not a non-communication state satisfies a predetermined condition;

a non-connection transmission informing step of, in a case where it is judged by said non-communication state judging step that the non-communication state satisfies the predetermined condition, informing said host computer of the non-connection;

a non-connection approval obtaining step of obtaining approval of a user with respect to a content informed by said non-connection transmission informing step; and a control step of, after obtaining the approval by said non-connection approval obtaining step, causing a connection signal transmitter to transmit a signal representing the non-connection to said host computer, and enter an operation state of said imaging device into a low consumption current mode.

76. (New) A program according to Claim 75, wherein the predetermined condition is that the non-communication state continues for a predetermined period of time.

77. (New) A program according to Claim 76, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing step and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining step are performed in said host computer.

78. (New) A program according to Claim 76, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing step and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining step are performed in said imaging device.

79. (New) A program according to Claim 76, wherein the informing by said non-connection transmission informing step and the approval of the user by said non-connection approval obtaining step are performed in either said host computer or said imaging device.